## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Applicants: Gerard Chauvel, et al.

July 31, 2003

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J. A. Petranek

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Date: December 4, 2006

Sir:

In response to the final Office action of August 4, 2006, please enter this Preliminary Amendment and corresponding Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.